

# WHAT'S UP, DACC?

JUNE 2022



LATEST NEWS FROM AROUND  
OUR ANIMAL CARE CENTERS



## DACC'S PETS ARE FAMILY (PAF) PROGRAM

**2022 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS WINNER -  
(NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES)**

The DACC **Pets Are Family (PAF)** program made it to the National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Awards list of winners for 2022! **PAF** is recognized for keeping pets with their loving families and providing equitable access to pet care resources in underserved communities. **PAF** includes the Medical Helpline, ACF Care Voucher, Spay Neuter Voucher, Good Neighbor Cat Program, Pet Food Pantry, and Vet@ThePark events. Access to low-cost pet services has long been a critical need in Los Angeles County, only to be exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. By offering these resources, DACC enables pet owners to

provide quality care for the wellbeing of their pets, and enjoy the mutual benefits of the human-animal bond. This program is also intended to provide support for pet owners who are considering relinquishing their beloved pets because they cannot afford to care for them and discourage pet relinquishment to County animal care centers, thereby reducing operational costs and putting fewer pets through the stress of being impounded or risking euthanasia if they cannot be adopted.

With fewer animals to care for, DACC staff are able to focus their limited time and resources on the stray and abandoned animals in the greatest need.

*Special Thanks to the DACC Outreach Team !!!*

# BEHIND THE SCENES!

## MEET DACC'S CONTRACT AND GRANTS DIVISION (TEAM CGD)

Welcome to the world of contracts and grants where there's never a dull moment! Led by Contracts and Grants Liaison—and Department veteran—Whitney Duong, the Contracts and Grants Division (CGD) manages and oversees all contracts, Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs), and service agreements for the Department of Animal Care and Control. CGD also oversees the Department's service agreements with its 45 contract cities which span as far north and south as the cities of Lancaster and Garden Grove, and stretch as far east and west as Walnut to Thousand Oaks.



Whitney



Alyssa



Wyman



Brad

Our South County cities are overseen by contract-extraordinaire Alyssa Perez, while North County cities are overseen by our Jack of all trades, Bradley Kim. Meanwhile, monthly billing and invoices for the cities are led by the true champion of team CGD, Wyman Sheen. Another fundamental component of CGD's duties, and as indicated in its name, is the management of the Department's grants program. Over the last four years, the Department's grants program has grown significantly, averaging over \$1M in revenue annually from various nonprofit and municipal grant-givers throughout the nation. As alluded to earlier, the world of CGD is always exciting and ever-changing. Our team is dedicated to supporting the Department and its operations in any way it can, and always remains driven by the primary mission of helping as many animals and pet owners in our communities as possible. You can reach out to our team at any time. We are always happy to assist!



## EXCERPTS FROM THE DIRECTOR'S BLOG

### DEAR HOLLYWOOD...

In film and television, animal control officers (ACOs) are universally depicted as mean, animal-hating, incompetent buffoons. These caricatures in no way accurately depict the hard working, compassionate, and dedicated women and men who have chosen this career because they believe deeply in helping animals and the people who care about them. ACOs work at all hours of the day, in all sorts of weather, to protect and save animals in need. It is a physically challenging and emotionally taxing profession that garners modest pay and few accolades from the public, especially thanks to the portrayal of ACOs in entertainment. The reality of ACO work is a far cry from its false depiction.

Hollywood, I understand that a story needs a good villain. Can't you do better? I'm sure your creative writers can come up with better bad guys than the tired old trope of the dogcatcher. How about dogfighters (dog fighting is a felony and a brutal, vicious activity in which animals suffer horribly). How about cockfighters? That, too, is a crime and is prevalent in many parts of the country. Dognappers are good villains – we have all heard the heartbreaking and frightening media stories of people being shot or assaulted while their beloved pets were stolen from them.

In all these cases the ACO is a hero – the officer breaking up an illegal animal fight; the officer who finds the kidnapped dog, scans it for its microchip and returns it to its family; the officer rescuing horses from a burning barn; or the officer who sees that an abused elder and her pet receive the services and care they need. We thank our ACOs for their dedication, compassion, and bravery. Hollywood, please continue this tribute by depicting ACOs as the true professionals they are.

*Marcia Mayeda*





## IT'S COOL TO BE CHIPPED!

BY FUMIE YAMAMOTO, DVM

### **Have you adopted a new furry family member?**

Here are some FAQs to help you decide if microchipping is right for you.

**What is a microchip?** A microchip is a small electronic chip the size of a grain of rice that is implanted under the skin using a hypodermic needle. No anesthesia is required and it can be done during a routine visit to your local vet office or low-cost vaccination clinic.

**What does the microchip do?** The chip itself contains a scannable identification number (using special microchip scanners) which can in turn be registered with your contact information with the chip company for a fee. The chip does not have any tracking or GPS capabilities. Reuniting with your pet occurs much faster when we know who to call!

**What are the benefits?** Microchips make it more likely for your pet to be returned if it is lost. It is also a great way to add another layer of identification should your pet ever become lost without an identifying collar and tags. These microchips also cannot be removed like collars can. In a study published in 2009, microchips were shown to significantly improve a dog's odds of going home compared to unchipped dogs (Lord et al, JAVMA, Jul 15, 2009). It also cannot be emphasized enough to keep your information current every time you move/change phone numbers so that your local animal care center can call you if your pet is found.

Microchips are an inexpensive and low-risk way to increase your pet's chance of finding their way home. It's never too late to microchip your pet! DACC offers microchipping services at its vaccine and wellness clinics.

For more details please visit us at [animalcare.lacounty.gov](http://animalcare.lacounty.gov).



## ACC HIGHLIGHTS

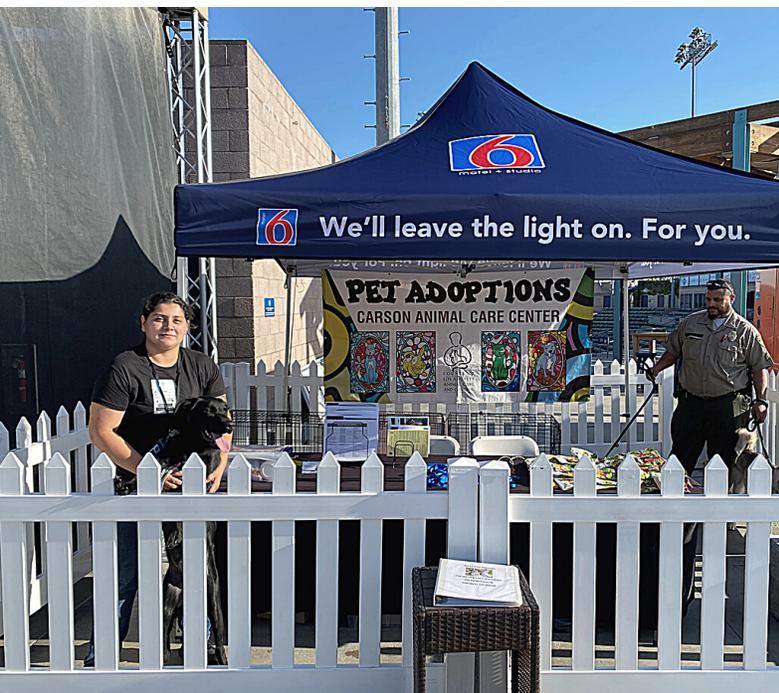
### CARSON ANIMAL CARE CENTER

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The Carson Animal Care Center partnered up with LA Galaxy and Motel 6 to bring awareness to shelter animals, promoting adoption and giving animals a forever home. Motel 6 is known for its active participation in keeping animals with their owners, with the motto “Where the pets stay free.”

On April 23, 2022, during the LA Galaxy game, the Carson ACC brought three dogs to Dignity Health Sports Park where they were showcased during pre-game festivities. DACC staff was also on-hand to answer inquiries regarding the adoption process, pet care, and the resources that DACC provides to our constituents in all seven animal care centers throughout Los Angeles County.

We were happy to see that all dogs that attended the event were adopted shortly thereafter!



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On May 17, 2022 DACC had the opportunity to feature one dog and one cat on Board Day. Thank you to Supervisor Barger's office for the continuous support.

DACC is happy to announce that Maribel was adopted. Fiona is still with us but we hope to find a forever home for her soon!



## ACC HIGHLIGHTS

# AGOURA ANIMAL CARE CENTER

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Girl Scout Troop #3266 visited the Agoura ACC to learn about responsible pet ownership and how the Agoura ACC serves the people and pets in the community.

Agoura Volunteer Helen Hartel does an excellent job and really enjoys speaking to the girls. Following her talk, the girls were able to view animals in care.

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On May 2, 2022, the Department attended the Malibu Farmers' Market Paws Have A Cause event.

It was a successful event! Two dogs (Siberian Husky and a pit bull mix) and two Guinea Pigs were adopted.

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Mark, a volunteer at the Agoura Animal Care Center, took a month long break from walking dogs to help feed Ukrainian refugees in Poland with World Central Kitchen.

According to Mark, the huge pan shown on the right creates about 1,800 servings per pan, and is mainly used for soups, veggies, and meat dishes. DACC celebrates Mark and his perpetual kindness!





# ANIMAL ADOPTIONS

MARCH - MAY 2022

<b>1,780</b>	DOGS
<b>501</b>	CATS
<b>266</b>	OTHER ANIMALS

**SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT TO ADOPT TODAY!**

**VISIT HERE!**



# IN THE NEWS

## NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Dr. Solacito is now West County Deputy Director! Dr. S, as she is commonly addressed, started her career as a DACC Veterinarian in 2008 and in 2012 was promoted to Senior Veterinarian overseeing medical operations for DACC. Under her leadership, the medical programs and practices were standardized and made current with the best practices in the industry.

In 2020, she earned her Certified Animal Welfare Administrator credentials and was also appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom to be part of the California Veterinary Medical Board. In 2021, she briefly held the position of Interim Deputy Director for North County. In her new role, Dr. Solacito will oversee the Carson/Gardena ACC, Agoura ACC, E-Programs, Adoption Partner Program, Volunteer Program, Public Information Officer, and Communication Center Operations. In the past 13 years with DACC, Dr. S has demonstrated her passion for animal welfare and commitment to public service. Her leadership has helped DACC redefine itself as an agency committed to its mission to help and protect people and animals.



## ANTELOPE VALLEY CANNABIS ERADICATION OPERATION

Last month, DACC assisted LASD with a nine-day operation. LASD served 278 search warrants. A total of 167 animals were impounded which included 137 dogs, 11 fowl, 4 cats, 10 goats, and 5 potbelly pigs.

Over 1,000 hours of field response were recorded, with many additional hours by the receiving teams at the care centers. Thank you to all of our staff that assisted with this operation.



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[@LACoanimals](#)

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### Baldwin Park:

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### Palmdale:

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### Interested in Fostering?

Click [HERE!](#)

### Licensing Questions?

Call: (562) 345-0400  
Email: [licensing@animalcare.lacounty.gov](mailto:licensing@animalcare.lacounty.gov)

### Interested in Volunteering?

Click [HERE!](#)